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Official Records

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

394th Meeting
Tuesday, 7 June 1994, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Hohenfellner . . . . . (Austria)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

General exchange of views *(continued)*

The Chairman: In accordance with the timetable we adopted yesterday, we shall continue our general exchange of views this morning, this afternoon and tomorrow morning. It is my intention to close the list of speakers on this item at the end of this morning's meeting. I therefore urge all delegations wishing to participate in the general exchange of views to place their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

During this morning's meeting we shall also have a technical presentation by the International System and Organization of Space Communication (Intersputnik) on that organization's development plans and prospects.

Mr. Zaitsev (Russian Federation) *(interpretation from Russian)*: Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Russian Federation is happy to see you once again leading the work of the Committee as it meets in the delightful city of Vienna for its thirty-seventh session. We are confident that under your experienced guidance the Committee will achieve a new level of mutual understanding on the global aspects of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space as a way of bringing all sides closer together in the post-confrontational era.

The Committee has made a great many good beginnings in its activities, which have helped develop international cooperation and achieve the hopes and aspirations of States. In its efforts to establish new mechanisms for integration and extrapolate into the future the existing system of international interaction in the sphere of outer space and, in particular, in its work on the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Committee has successfully passed through very difficult dialectic processes and has examined problems the necessary elements for whose solution were lacking in the past.

As we see it, the present goal of the Committee is to strengthen the basis for stable, long-term, pragmatic relations and partnerships between States and to serve as an effective mechanism for synthesizing national and global humanitarian interests.

The dynamic of international development gives rise to new ideas, realities and values. Nevertheless, in trying to solve specific practical tasks, it is vital to keep in mind the various factors involved on which depends the integration of the various links in the chain of international cooperation. Here, of course, it would be neither the time nor the place to talk about the various criteria of political values that have not yet been agreed and the review of the legal situation governing space activities and cooperation.

It is now clear that aiming for so-called great changes is unlikely to provide a sound basis for defining genuinely rational ideas and proposals worthy of attention, or a clear idea of the objective reality governing general democratic interests involved in the development of cooperation.

I think it would be correct to say that the space Powers also need to change some of their current habits. They should overcome the prevailing stereotypes and prejudices. It seems to us that within the framework of our

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aspirations for the future in developing relations these Powers need to make a substantial contribution to the establishment of a constructive basis for cooperation, to correct their behaviour in the light of present realities and to lay down the prerequisites for a new stage of activities for the Committee and its various bodies.

Our delegation remains true to the tradition of keeping the Committee informed of current trends in Russian space activity which, at the present time, is going through a multistructural reform. The matters we have to deal with are very complex. They are not simple questions, and if we are to solve them we need good will and the concentration of efforts on all sides. As a result of the energetic and purposeful measures being taken by Russia, we have to a great extent been able to maintain our astronautical activity at its present level. Russia's space sector has a vast potential, and we are seeking to give it new guidelines that are both balanced and dynamic.

Our partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) - which, together with Russia, have inherited from the Soviet Union the various elements of a space infrastructure - have objectively come to understand that there is a need for further integration in the sphere of space activity and also to overcome negative trends which would lead to our being left behind in the space-related developments taking place throughout the world.

The development of the work of the CIS inter-State council on space-related matters demonstrates that the understanding on space that has been reached within the Commonwealth is effectively beginning to work well, embodying as it does the genuine aspirations of all the participants in the space programmes.

In the context of these efforts, great importance is being attached to making full use of the Cosmodrome at Baikonur in Kazakhstan. This facility is a scientific and technical complex covering 7,000 square kilometres. It includes 15 launching pads, a dozen fitting and testing hangars for the assembly and pre-launch testing of rocket carriers and space apparatus, advanced measuring technology and a high-powered computer centre.

The process of developing a completely new management and organizational basis for further cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan has begun, and Baikonur is being maintained as a unified functionally and technologically integrated complex and is being rented to Russia.

On 28 March 1994 the Presidents of the two countries signed a framework agreement defining the status of Baikonur and a number of important aspects of its functioning, such as the legal position of the Russian staff, the relevant norms and procedures governing jurisdiction, and the regulation of property rights and so on.

That document, as well as the treaty on the renting of the Cosmodrome - which is soon to be completed in accordance with the agreement and other executive agreements - will together provide guarantees of the unhindered execution of the space programmes of Russia and the CIS as a whole, and represent the necessary material and legal prerequisites for the development of international cooperation projects being carried out with Russia's participation.

We feel that, with further work along these lines, we will not lose sight of reality. There is a determination to complete in a constructive way the process of negotiation that has been started by the two Presidents.

In conclusion, I should like, through you, Mr. Chairman, to welcome the participants in this forum and to wish you every success in our common and constructive endeavour.

Mr. Zaman (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Pakistan joins the other speakers in expressing its deep satisfaction at seeing you presiding over the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). This is not the first time that we have gathered here in Vienna. COPUOS held its twentieth session in Vienna in 1977, when a significant decision was made regarding the establishment of a task force of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in connection with the holding of the UNISPACE 82 Conference.

In 1984, at its twenty-seventh session, held in Vienna, the Committee took some significant steps to pave the way for finalizing the draft principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from outer space, which were later endorsed by the Committee at its 1985 session and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986. In 1991, at the thirty-fourth session of the Committee, held in Graz, many important decisions were taken and recommendations were made regarding the participation of the United Nations in International Space Year in 1992. In addition, fruitful discussions were conducted at that session on the elaboration of draft Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources

in Outer Space, resulting in their adoption by the Committee at its following session.

My delegation is sure, Mr. Chairman, that the Committee will accomplish more significant tasks under your able stewardship. Your high diplomatic skills, coupled with your complete commitment to the cause of our Committee's work, are now undoubtedly among its more valuable assets. My delegation looks forward to your continued availability as Chairman of this body in the years ahead, in spite of your increasing commitments in your own country.

Our Committee is also fortunate enough to be assisted in a significant manner by Professor John H. Carver of Australia and by Mr. Vaclav Mikulka, as Chairmen of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, respectively. My delegation would like to convey its appreciation to these two distinguished personalities for the outstanding work they are doing in their respective Subcommittees. Without their valuable contributions, our Committee could not have registered its landmark achievements.

Pakistan's space programme, executed by SUPARCO, the national space agency, continues to make modest progress in the peaceful applications of space technology. LANDSAT/SPOT/NOAA data products continue to be provided by the Satellite Ground Station, Islamabad, operated by SUPARCO, to several agencies within and outside Pakistan. Many projects in the field of natural resources management have either been completed or are under way, using the satellite remote sensing data coming through the Islamabad Station.

The developmental work on Pakistan's second experimental satellite, BADR-B, has registered further progress, and some of its subsystems have undergone satisfactory performance tests. SUPARCO is also operating the Mission Control Centre and the Local User Terminal for the COSPAS-SARSAT Programme in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has now established a National Coordination Committee for effective implementation of this programme. This Committee will review the organization of search-and-rescue work throughout the country and formulate recommendations on several aspects, such as search-and-rescue operations and plans to ensure their consistency with the national plan; drafting of legislation concerning emergency distress services and interference monitoring, keeping in view the overall requirements of the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union; and the maintenance of a national database and access to it by national users.

I turn to Pakistan's participation in regional cooperative space activities. In view of recommendations by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), a National Coordination Committee - consisting of national organizations concerned with space activities, with SUPARCO as the coordinating agency - has been set up to initiate the preparatory activities in connection with the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development, scheduled to be held at Beijing, China, in September 1994. The National Coordination Committee has prepared a national action plan for regional cooperation in space technology applications, including many programme elements and implementation of Agenda 21. The action plans of all the regional countries were discussed in a Consultative Group Meeting held at ESCAP Headquarters in Bangkok in March this year, in which draft documents for the Ministerial Conference were finalized.

Pakistan was also a co-sponsor, with the China National Space Administration, of another regional activity, the First Asia-Pacific Conference on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications, hosted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Thailand, at Bangkok in January this year. That event attracted many participants from many Asia-Pacific countries, who discussed the modes, approaches and projects for multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications between Asia-Pacific countries. The next Asia-Pacific Conference on this topic will be held in Pakistan in the first quarter of 1995, with the co-sponsorship of the China National Space Administration and the Thai Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The delegation of Pakistan will continue to extend its wholehearted support to all efforts directed towards making progress in the Committee's work. My delegation proposes to make further contributions during consideration of the various agenda items at the current session.

Before concluding, I should like to express my delegation's gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, to the officers of the Committee and to the representatives and observers present for their attention and time.

Mr. Chen Shiqiu (China) *(interpretation from Chinese):* First of all, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on assuming the task of

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presiding over the Committee's work. I am confident that under your able leadership this Committee will achieve new and significant progress. I also wish to thank the Chairmen of the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to express my appreciation for the work done by the secretariat, whose diligent efforts have ensured good conditions for our undertakings.

Over the past year, international space cooperation, organized and guided by the Committee and other relevant bodies of the United Nations, has continued to experience remarkable achievements. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications has received the support of Governments and relevant international organizations. Various training courses, seminars and workshops have been organized, and many technical advisory services have been provided to different countries, particularly developing countries, thus making useful contributions to the promotion and coordination of space activities. We are pleased to note that mankind has made tremendous progress in outer-space activities. The legal system for outer space has also been developed and improved, thus laying a solid foundation for the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of mankind.

During the past year, China has made progress in its space activities and in its cooperation with other States. Following the successful launch this year of SJ-4, a scientific experimental satellite, China is also planning to launch during the second half of 1994 three international satellites: Asia-Pacific-I, Asia Pacific-2 and OPTUS-B3; a national communications satellite, DFH-3; and a technical experimental satellite.

The Chinese Government has always supported and actively promoted implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. In the period 1994-1995, China will continue to offer two one-year fellowships to developing countries for training in the areas of remote sensing, mapping and Earth measurement by satellite. This September, China will host an international seminar on microwave remote sensing applications. During the same period, the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development will also be held in Beijing. This is an important event in the implementation of the relevant recommendations of UNISPACE 2, and we wish great success to all these activities.

The special theme for this year's session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief". This is an important and arduous task in the peaceful utilization of space technologies for the benefit of mankind. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to it and, since China has already gained some experience and achieved results in forecasting natural disasters, it is willing to share, through international cooperation with all other countries, its technologies and experience in the area of warning of natural disasters.

Protecting the outer space environment is the common responsibility of mankind. The Chinese Government therefore pays close attention to the question of minimizing the creation of space debris in space activities and has already begun research on the subject. We support the continued consideration of the space debris issue on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The question of nuclear power sources remains the focus of general concern for various countries. Although the Legal Subcommittee held no substantive discussion of this item at this year's session, in view of the importance of this issue the Chinese delegation nevertheless supports the continued retention of this item on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.

With respect to the ways and means for maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space, this Committee has done a great deal of work in recent years. The Chinese delegation wishes to reiterate that, despite the trend towards relaxation in the current international situation and the deceleration of the arms race in outer space, the prevention of militarization and weapons-building in outer space continues to be an issue that holds the close attention of all countries. The Chinese delegation is prepared to join all others in exploring all feasible ways and means to attain the desired objectives through full consultations.

Through many years of effort, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has achieved a great deal. We hope that, in the future, the Committee, through the joint efforts of its member States, will continue to solve the problems facing it and make greater progress. China is a developing space country and its capabilities in outer space are still limited. Nevertheless, the Chinese Government will make every effort to expand its space cooperation with all other countries and to make its own contributions to mankind's peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

Mr. Tófalvi (Hungary): At previous meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I have reported the changes that have occurred in Hungarian space activities in earlier years. After more than two years of the

new era, it is now appropriate to sum up our tasks and the results we have achieved.

In early 1992, besides having a new organization, we formed a new conception and programme by which we concentrated our potentials and scientific forces into five main research directions. The first priority was given to the most important field for such a small country as Hungary - that of research and application; this field is the space-Earth system, which includes remote sensing, meteorology, Earth observation and so on.

In emphasizing the space-Earth system, we considered the main characteristics of Hungary and its aim to cooperate with other countries to be significant.

In the new Hungarian space conception, the second most important decision was to realize Hungary's intention to carry out all its space activities in the framework of international cooperation. With regard to the processes that have taken place in world space research, applications and the shaping of the new order of international cooperation, we think our increasing cooperation has been successful: Western European/Hungarian cooperation, first of all with the European Space Agency (ESA); Central European/Hungarian cooperation, first of all with Central European countries - Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Italy and so on; Eastern European/Hungarian cooperation, first of all with the Russian Space Agency (RSA) and the space agency of Ukraine; overseas/Hungarian cooperation, first of all with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO); and bilateral cooperation with other countries.

The broadening circle of international cooperation has made it possible for Hungarian institutes to take part in such great, truly scientific programmes as CASSINI, CLUSTER, MARS, CORINE, CESAR, EUROMIR, and so on. Implementing these programmes requires the thorough collaboration of scientists from several countries. Our intention is to be active and creative members of further international programmes in this century. We are seeking opportunities to keep lively contacts with experts and scientists of other space organizations.

In several fields of space science and application, we have prepared proposals and submitted them to ESA, NASA, the Central European Initiative (CEI), RSA, ISRO, and so on, in order to find possible ways to work together in the future. At the same time, we are keen to widen our working connections with individual countries in Europe and overseas. Hungary is pleased that, after decades of taking part in successful cooperation in the INTERCOSMOS programme, we have managed to enter into such new contacts during the last two years, which demonstrates that our scientific activities have been accepted. Thus we can preserve our earlier working connections and develop new ways to cooperate in the highly important field of scientific activities.

We appreciate our achievement of full membership in the Space Agency Forum (SAF), which will make it possible for us to promote actively the search for ways for the scientific community to cooperate at the global level, since SAF represents for us the highest level of international cooperation.

In conclusion, let me mention some thoughts about regional cooperation. After more than two creative decades in the INTERCOSMOS Programme and more than two promising years in Central European regional cooperation, we have come to the conclusion that regional cooperation could be one of the most significant forms of general international cooperation for the world's space activities, primarily for the small and medium countries.

In the future, the great space Powers must also concentrate, first, on world programmes, planetary and interplanetary programmes, space science, and worldwide tasks such as education to solve such global problems as space debris. The small and medium countries could not but increase their joint efforts in the framework of regional and international cooperation.

Regional cooperation on creative and useful programmes and the regional organizations could be the main organizing forces for small and medium countries all over the world in an age in which, instead of confrontation, cooperation in the world's space activities will be the order of the day.

The Chairman: In calling on the representative of Austria, I note that this will be, I understand, his maiden speech in the Committee.

Mr. Böck (Austria): At the outset, the Austrian delegation would like to take this opportunity to welcome the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to this first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) after the move to their new home in Vienna. Under the able guidance of its Director, Mr. Jasentuliyana, the secretariat of the Office has during past sessions proved itself to be a highly competent and

efficient unit. In the view of my delegation, this competence and efficiency was amply displayed in the servicing of this year's sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as well as of the Legal Subcommittee in Vienna. Furthermore, the standard of the conference facilities at the disposal of the delegations in Vienna also contributed, in our view, to the smooth course of those sessions.

In this context, we particularly welcome the excellent attendance by delegations at the recent thirty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, as well as the intensive participation, *inter alia* in the general debate, which was greater than during the thirty-second session of that body. In the light of these experiences, we are looking forward to future meetings of the Legal Subcommittee in Vienna. As regards the issue of the precise date of next year's session of the Legal Subcommittee, various suggestions made by delegations should be taken into account so that the forthcoming thirty-fourth session does not coincide with the Easter holidays.

Permit me also to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your highly instructive and extensive statement on events which have taken place in the peaceful uses of outer space during the past year. One can see that it has been another extremely active year in space, a year which was characterized not only by increasing cooperation between countries, but also by a rising number of States engaging in space activities. This growing interest of members in the peaceful uses of outer space on the one hand and the recent steady increase in the membership of the United Nations on the other hand should be borne in mind when the issue of applications for COPUOS membership is dealt with. We hope it will be possible to arrive at a consensus recommendation on new membership during this session. It seems important to state in this context that the mandate under which you, Sir, conducted consultations on this matter referred to the appropriateness of a limited enlargement of COPUOS, which should be regionally balanced and based on proposals of the various regional groups.

Let me now elaborate briefly on diverse Austrian space activities, which are mainly focused in the following areas: space science, mainly in the fields of solar/terrestrial relations, planetary exploration and space plasma physics; Earth and environmental observations from space; and satellite communications.

The funding of almost all Austrian space activities - about $40 million per year - is provided by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research, which is also responsible for the coordination of all space projects, in which task it is assisted by the Austrian Space Agency (ASA).

Austria, as a medium-sized country, is dependent on bilateral and international cooperation for efficient participation in space activities. Therefore, Austria joined the European space institutions - ESA, EUTELSAT and, most recently, EUMETSAT. Bilateral cooperation is actively pursued with the Russian Federation, both in planetary explorations and in the field of life sciences, as a follow-up of the AUSTROMIR-91 mission, which was completed most successfully.

The Space Research Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, in Graz, plays a major role in the exploration of outer space and space geodesy. The analysis of satellite data for earth and environmental observations is being undertaken by several Austrian institutions.

The main actors in the area of satellite communications research in Austria are the technical universities in Graz and Vienna. Several industrial companies are active in contributing to the design, engineering and manufacture of European satellites and ESA space technology programmes. Austrian industry also contributes to the Ariane 5 development.

Austria has always been active in promoting space cooperation between industrialized and developing countries, both through its active engagement in the relevant committees of COSPAR and the IAF and by special initiatives.

Space technology can be a powerful tool to accelerate national development, as it provides a way of overcoming obsolete technologies and an alternative to "trickle-down" models of national development. The application of space technology can effectively deal with problems of illiteracy, isolation and lack of information that afflict the development process.

In this context, the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the city of Graz, the Federal Province of Styria and the United Nations will jointly sponsor a special United Nations workshop on "Enhancing Social, Economic and Environmental Security through Space Technology", to be held in Graz from 12-15 September this year. It will be mainly devoted to participants from developing countries. The issues to be addressed include: identification of specific applications of space technology to help countries understand how best to safeguard their environment and

ensure the efficient management and sustainable development of natural resources; identification of applications for developing countries for the exploitation of natural resources as well as for the prevention and mitigation of environmental damage; and policy issues related to the exploitation of space technologies for sustainable development, taking into account the need for policy makers to ensure that space technologies are given a high priority in national developmental policies.

Similar activities are also planned for the coming years in order to improve the application of space technology in developing countries.

Furthermore, the Austrian Space Agency is coordinating the preparatory work for the COSPAR/IAF Symposium on the "Application of Space Technology for Education", to be held on the occasion of the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS on 20-21 February 1995.

Lastly, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs has made the conceptual arrangement for an exhibition in the Vienna International Centre on the topic "International Cooperation in Utilizing the Benefits of Space Technology for Improving Life on Earth and for Protecting the Environment". Various space-related donations received from Member States will be displayed. Through its generous contribution, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research made this exhibition a reality. The exhibition will open with a reception tomorrow at 12.30.

In our view, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications could play a primary role in the promotion of the use of space technology for environmental and developmental purposes. It is therefore, in our view, all the more important to provide the Space Applications Programme with additional financial resources. We welcome the approval of an additional budget allocation for this Programme for the 1994-1995 biennium through the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Austria has been one of the few countries to contribute regularly to this Programme, and we intend to continue our support. I am therefore glad to be able to announce my country's contribution for 1994, totalling $20,000. We call on other States to follow suit so as to enable the Space Applications Programme to cope with the numerous tasks ahead of it.

The attention of international public opinion has already been drawn to the major problem of waste in outer space - the problem of space debris. My delegation considers this question to be an urgent one requiring action in both the scientific and the legal fields. It should be pointed out that space debris is beginning to constitute a threat to other uses of outer space, endangering the benefits that can be derived from them. However, before we embark on the formulation of legal rules on the subject, more precise information about the facts is needed. Regulations that do not correspond to the facts run the risk of remaining dead letters. Thus, thorough examinations should be continued to assess the actual existence and amount of space debris and the threats generated by it. In our view, within the United Nations framework this information-gathering on the factual situation would best be carried out by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In that context, we welcome the first discussion of this item during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the agreement achieved in that body to develop a specific multi-year plan to deal with the issue.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs has prepared a very useful report, contained in document A/AC.105/575, concerning matters related to the possible holding of a third United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, UNISPACE 3. We believe that this report provides a good basis for discussion, with analysis on such issues as the possible rationale for convening a UNISPACE 3 as well as on organization, logistics and funding. We look forward to an extensive discussion of this item during this year's session, leading to a comprehensive and consensus-oriented concept, containing, *inter alia*, a set of sharply focused objectives and goals, an agenda and a discussion of follow-up activities of a UNISPACE 3 conference.

Finally, I would like to stress that the Austrian delegation stands ready to cooperate closely with you, Mr. Chairman, with all other delegations and organizations and with the Office for Outer Space Affairs to bring this session of the Committee to a fruitful conclusion.

I wish also to take this opportunity to extend two invitations to members and observers. One is an invitation by the Head of the Austrian delegation, Ambassador Mayrhofer-Grünbühel, to a reception tomorrow, following the afternoon meeting, at 6 p.m., in the dining room of the Vienna International Centre. The second is an invitation by the Austrian Foreign Ministry and the Styrian Provincial Government, in cooperation with the city of Graz, to interested participants for a day trip to Graz. This will take

place on Saturday, 11 June. The trip will enable participants to see the amenities of Graz in addition to those of Vienna. As plans stand at present, the itinerary will include a luncheon given by the Mayor of Graz, a sightseeing tour of Graz, a visit to the famous Lurgrotte - a cave full of bats and stalagmites - and a visit to the renowned Riegersburg castle, where a buffet dinner will be given by the Governor of Styria.

Mr. Porojan (Romania): First of all, I must express the appreciation of the Romanian delegation for the meaningful contribution of the secretariat in the preparation of the documents before the Committee and express thanks for the tremendous work carried out by the two Subcommittees.

Since the Committee's last session, major changes have taken place in the world, many of which have had a direct impact on space activities. Most of these achievements were brilliantly illustrated in your statement, Mr. Chairman, and in the statement by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Nandasiri Jasentuliyana.

This year sees the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

The Romanian delegation welcomes the progress made during the Legal Subcommittee's thirty-second session, especially on the proposed principles regarding international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. Good work has also been done in discussions on the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

Romania's national space programmes reflect our efforts to pursue a policy of peace and to ensure the demilitarization of outer space. As noted by the Romanian representative during the session of the Legal Subcommittee, we consider that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 47/68, should be strengthened, first through efforts by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to create a better framework for the use of nuclear power sources, and secondly through efforts by the Legal Subcommittee to develop legal norms.

Our delegation considers that the definition and delimitation of outer space is necessary because of the different legal regimes that should cover space and outer space respectively. Delimitation should be based on the deliberations and conclusions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

We wish to reaffirm our view that the geostationary orbit is a limited resource, and that access to it should be free to all countries, including those that do not yet have the capacity to launch satellites. The interests of such countries should be safeguarded by ensuring that the legal principles adopted take into account their possible future technological development. In that connection, the suggestion by the Brazilian delegation that a seminar be held on possible legal implications of the existence of space debris in the geostationary orbit was of great interest.

We must recall our great interest in ensuring that States which have already developed space capabilities should be willing to cooperate with other countries. We note that the Russian Federation has already indicated its readiness to cooperate with the countries of Eastern Europe.

As members know, in 1993 the Romanian Space Agency signed the Agreement on Space Cooperation for Peaceful Purposes with the European Space Agency (ESA). As a result of that Agreement, the Romanian Space Agency has received significant scientific and technical assistance, consisting of satellite emission-reception stations, remote sensing data and expert consulting.

Mr. Forna (Romania), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Mr. Porojan (Romania): Romania is currently operating ground-based stations for telecommunications, satellite television, meteorology and navigation; data transmission is to follow shortly. A station for processing remote sensing data and several laboratories with similar tasks also form part of the operation.

It should be stressed that Romania has longstanding experience in the manufacture of satellite-borne scientific devices such as magnetometers, field and radiation detectors, computer techniques and telemetering instruments.

Although not currently in a position to consider collaboration on carrier rockets, satellites, shuttles or outer-space stations, Romania keeps abreast of international plans and hopes to seek participation in such projects as the

Russian-British space shuttle HOTOL, the European space plane HERMES and the manned space station COLUMBUS.

I should like to take this occasion to express Romania's firm commitment to promoting the peaceful use of outer space through international cooperation. Despite the difficult economic situation in the country, the Government has managed to maintain its space research and application capabilities, most of which are well known.

The ideal would be to find an equitable way to enjoy space exploration as a right inherent to all mankind. COPUOS is the forum for consensus and the definition of international priorities. It is time for international agreement on imaging system priorities, international partnership, education and training, and encouraging commercial enterprises to develop affordable systems.

The Romanian Government supports the proposals of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications regarding the creation of regional centres for science and technology education. Romania is ready to host one such regional centre, but we consider that the main donors have to continue their support of training opportunities for scientists from developing countries.

It is necessary, with the cooperation and support of advanced countries, to organize training courses and to develop programmes on remote sensing applications for the planning and management of the environment, natural resources and physical infrastructure in various economic regions, and to stimulate more local participation.

Romania strongly believes that the benefits from space programmes should be shared by a greater number of States and peoples. It is important to use space knowledge for the development of communication, for environmental protection and for disaster prevention.

Space activities have had a profound impact on people's lives ever since the beginning of the space era, in terms of their ability to improve the quality of life on earth and to enable people to take a unified view of human development on our fragile planet.

Romania believes that free access to space-related information, the transfer of technology, the increase of technical and scientific educational aids and the dissemination of benefits derived from space exploration could effectively help developed and developing countries to resolve existing differences. Therefore, international legal standards should be developed to cover this area. Establishing and supporting regional mechanisms within the United Nations framework could greatly influence the achievement of that set of goals.

Mr. Komarov (Ukraine) *(interpretation from Russian)*: I am grateful that our delegation has been given this opportunity to speak at such a highly representative international forum. The Ukrainian delegation would like to express its assurance that the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will take place in a spirit of mutual understanding and that the concerted and fruitful work of all participating Member States will be directed to the benefit of the entire world community.

The course of history over the past 30 years has shown that the socio-economic progress of mankind is very closely linked with the peaceful application of the unique achievements of space science and technology. United Nations efforts both to demilitarize space and to humanize space activity have produced tangible results. Expenditure on military programmes on the part of the leading space Powers is falling and there is a greater orientation of space activities and efforts towards the solution of pressing problems facing mankind - meteorology, climate, the ecology and the use of natural resources, communications, information and education.

This Committee has been playing a key role in the United Nations strategy. We feel that the agenda proves the importance of that role, as do last year's reports of the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. We will support this work and do our utmost to strengthen and broaden this activity.

Indeed, we believe that the priority issue is, quite properly, to find ways of ensuring that outer space is used for peaceful purposes. That corresponds to the policy of my Government, and our space programme confirms that peaceful orientation. The major portion of our space budget is devoted to the following: the study of Earth from space, space communications and information systems, space transport systems with special emphasis on the very promising Zenith rocket launcher, space technologies, new materials and equipment, and space biology and medicine.

Ukraine has considerable experience in all those fields, and we are ready to share our experience in international circles. In implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 on promoting broader cooperation and exchanging experience in applying space technology to

practical ends, as well as regards the training of specialists in space technology, two scientific and technical centres have been established in Ukraine in 1993-1994 at Dnepropretrovsk and Kharkov, as well as the Kiev international scientific and technical centre and the aerospace technology faculty of the Kiev Polytechnic.

We believe that the work carried out under the guidance of the United Nations on using aerospace remote sensing systems to solve topical ecological problems is extremely important, as is the work done on the rational use of natural resources, the forecasting of adverse natural events and the warning system for technogenic catastrophes. In this regard, we propose the establishment of an international project on space monitoring of the major impact of the Chernobyl accident on the environment.

The Chairman returned to the Chair.

Mr. Komarov (Ukraine) *(interpretation from Russian):* I would like to confirm the total readiness of Ukrainian scientists to participate in broad international cooperation on the use of space technology for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief. Our project, named "Warning", provides for the establishment of a satellite system for monitoring seismic activity and forecasting earthquakes. A number of European countries have already expressed interest. Addressing the issues highlighted in this project would meet the interests of many countries, and we suggest that joint efforts be made to this end.

The Ukrainian space programme puts great emphasis on space biology and medicine. Our scientists' work in space biology could certainly become part of bilateral or multilateral projects, and we stand ready to cooperate in this sphere as well.

Ukraine has the scientific and technical potential, and its industry has the scientific, experimental and manufacturing capacity, to permit work on a programme to produce a new generation of payload-delivery vehicles. I refer here to reusable aerospace systems that will enable much cheaper orbital delivery of equipment, eliminating the need for cosmodromes, so that space apparatus can be launched from anywhere on Earth. Ukraine suggests closer international cooperation on this project as well.

The delegation of Ukraine believes that the Committee's Working Groups should study the problem of the geostationary orbit and its optimal use in order to ensure the equitable distribution and maintenance of this very limited natural resource.

In addition, we believe that the issue raised at the thirty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee regarding the scheduling this year of a United Nations-sponsored international conference on problems relating to the commercialization of space activities is also topical.

As regards other agenda items, the Ukrainian delegation reiterates its support for General Assembly resolution 48/39 regarding the convening in the near future of UNISPACE 3. We believe that this would provide new impetus for the practical application of scientific and technological achievements, in the interests of development and social progress, to every region of the world.

Mr. de Yturriaga (Spain) *(interpretation from Spanish):* Spain is among the leading countries in the world in work related to outer space. Its activities in this respect take place mainly within the framework of the European Space Agency (ESA), but it is also an active member of other organizations, such as INTELSAT, INMARSAT and EUTELSAT. My country is the fifth-largest contributor to ESA and participates in most of the Agency's activities, particularly in the various Ariane launching programmes. In addition, we have put into orbit three satellites: HISPASAT and HISPASAT 1A and 1B, which are all working satisfactorily. At the end of this year we will also be putting into orbit a microsatellite to assess the use of liquid connectors in fluid accelerometers.

Spain has for many years participated in the space activities of the United Nations, and is party to the following Conventions elaborated under the aegis of this Committee: the 1966 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; the 1971 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects; and the 1974 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. We are also waiting to see what is decided with respect to possible revision of the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies before beginning the process of acceding to that Agreement.

My country joined this Committee in 1980, but, as a result of the "gentleman's agreement" adopted then, must share its seat with Portugal on a revolving basis every three years. This is altogether unsatisfactory, and does not take account of Spain's capacity in space activities. My country

is thus discriminated against, as are Portugal, Greece and Turkey. That is why we strongly support the proposed compromise of increasing the Committee's membership by eight. Since 1980, the last time the Committee was enlarged, the membership of the United Nations has increased considerably, and therefore the enlargement of the Committee that you have suggested, Mr. Chairman, after adequate consultations, is reasonable and appropriate. I am sure that all Member States can join the emerging consensus. The new blood that we hope will infuse the Committee - stagnating somewhat for lack of renewal, contrary to the usual practice of the United Nations - will surely give a new stimulus to its work.

I should like to quote an old saying: "Change or die." The modernization that the Committee needs applies also to its *modus operandi*, in order to overcome inflexibility and routine. I am certain that the Committee and its Subcommittees - the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee - can function better than they did during recent sessions. We are sure that once the administrative trauma - also psychological for some - of crossing the Atlantic has been overcome, the Committee will be able to recover its vigour on the banks of the Danube in this generous host country of Austria, which, thanks to its eminent jurists, scientists and diplomats, has made an important contribution to the space sciences and, especially, space law.

I hope that during this session we will be able to discuss the best way to improve the functioning of the Committee and its two Subcommittees. In this respect, Mr. Chairman, I note your remark yesterday that this discussion can take place under agenda item 9, "Other matters", when it can include the possibility of setting up a working group on the topic.

I should now like briefly to outline my country's position on the main agenda items before the Committee. First, with respect to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we support continuing the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, contained in General Assembly resolution 47/68 of 1992. We do not feel that it is necessary to revise them yet. However, we should continue to study their relevance to present realities, and we therefore feel the collaboration offered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be most useful, and we are grateful for it.

We are encouraged by the fact that the question of space debris has been included on the Subcommittee's agenda, and we agree with its decision to focus on the acquisition of data on the problem of space debris and on better understanding the issue.

My delegation welcomes the choice of next year's special theme, "Application of space technology in education, with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries". In this respect, Spain has had a very interesting experience in its cooperation with Latin American countries on a television education channel via the HISPASAT satellite. My country is ready to make the results of this experience available to interested United Nations Members.

In a similar spirit of cooperation in keeping with the special theme, Spain has offered its support to the Education Centre for Latin America, with headquarters in Mexico and Brazil. We trust that this Centre will soon be ready to be launched into orbit, though not in the geostationary.

In 1995, we will also launch two MINISAT satellites with two astrophysical and one scientific payloads, whose technology is the result of Spain's cooperation with three Ibero-American countries -Argentina, Chile and Mexico. The aim is to establish a space platform enabling the scientific communities of Ibero-America and Spain to carry out experiments in space.

Concerning the Legal Subcommittee, as I have already indicated, we feel that it is not currently necessary to revise the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources. We therefore agree with the Subcommittee's decision to postpone the discussion of this matter for one year, on the understanding that it can be reconsidered at any time if new elements arise to justify such a reconsideration.

As to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, this is certainly a very sensitive matter before the Committee, given the disparity of opinion on the subject prevailing among various States, as demonstrated by the fact that this item has remained on the agenda for many years - practically since the Committee was first established. Advances have been made in harmonizing the various positions and dialogue must continue, as must intergovernmental cooperation in outer space, regardless of whether agreement is reached on the subject.

As to the principles on the exploration and utilization of outer space - and here there are also differing opinions among various groups of States - a dialogue has been initiated which we would wish to see continue. Proposals

have been made - by the Russian and Sudanese delegations, among others - to take into account precedents set on marine environments outside national jurisdictions and the discussions at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. These proposals are very interesting and attractive and could be useful in our discussions so long as we do not commit the sin of simplification by treating them as if they can be applied *mutatis mutandis* to outer space. While there may exist points of agreement, it is no less certain that there are also significant differences. Nevertheless, in either case there is one basic guiding principle, that of freedom of communication in outer space and its use for the benefit of all humanity.

My delegation approves of the eventual holding of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which must be prepared properly. In this context, we thank the Secretariat for its extensive and detailed report, in which the results of UNISPACE 82 are evaluated, various arguments put forward in favour of convening a new Conference, and concrete suggestions made on its organization and financing. The timetable presented seems reasonable, and my delegation can support it so long as the preparatory process is carried out in a satisfactory way and in accordance with the guidelines set out in this report.

Finally, I should like to express my delegation's unhappiness with the lack of attention the Committee has given to the Spanish language. All the informative meetings and consultations, as well as most of those held in negotiation groups, are being held exclusively in English. Certain fundamental documents have been circulated in English alone and, although we note the efforts that have been made by the translation service, the documents translated into Spanish arrive very late. One egregious example is the report of the Legal Subcommittee - of extreme importance to the preparation of this Committee's work - which was published in English on 14 April but did not appear in Spanish until 1 June. I trust that the Secretariat will take every measure necessary to rectify this situation and will treat all official languages of the Committee on an equal footing.

My delegation assures you, Sir, of its loyal and sincere cooperation in facilitating the efficient accomplishment of our tasks.

The Chairman *(interpretation from Spanish)*: I assure the representative of Spain that the Chairman of this Committee is very sensitive to the use of the official languages, and I believe that my statement now to thank him for his statement is proof of that.

Mr. Chandrasekhar (India): At the outset, allow me to express the pleasure of the Indian delegation at seeing you, Sir, again in the Chair guiding the proceedings of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The skill you have demonstrated in successfully steering this Committee in the past and your long and rich experience give us the fullest confidence that we are poised to make significant progress on various agenda items which we deal with in this Committee. Permit me also to express the gratitude and appreciation of our delegation to the Chairmen of the two Subcommittees - Mr. John Carver and Mr. Vaclav Mikulka for the able manner in which they conducted their sessions this year. As the full Committee is meeting for the first time at this new venue after the relocation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs from New York, let me also extend my warm greetings and good wishes to the Director and other members of the Secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

As is customary in remarks made under this agenda item, I would like to take a few minutes to highlight the progress of activities related to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space in India during the past year. The launch of the Indian Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle, designated ASLV-D4, took place successfully from Sriharikota Range in India on 4 May. This launch vehicle placed a 113 kilogram scientific satellite called SROSS-C2 into a low earth inclined orbit. This satellite carries two payloads, one dedicated to astronomy and the other to investigation of Earth's atmosphere. The astronomy payload is a gamma-ray burst detector which studies celestial bursts in the 20-3,000 keV energy range. The other payload, the Retarding Potential Analyser, investigates the characteristics of the equatorial and low-latitude ionosphere and thermosphere. Subsequent to launch, the payloads have been switched on and have been functioning satisfactorily.

As in the past, India has pursued a wide range of applications through its several satellites operating in orbit. Three multi-purpose satellites in geostationary orbit - INSAT-lD, INSAT-2A AND INSAT-2B - ably supported a variety of applications in the fields of telecommunications, television broadcast, meteorology, disaster-warning services and search and rescue alert. The successful launches and operations of the INSAT-2A and 2B have served to strengthen services, particularly for the introduction of additional television channels and for the

expansion of telecommunications. Services such as remote-area communications, instructional television applications, satellite news gathering and business communication networks have received a considerable boost. As already planned, the future satellites in this series are under construction. The INSAT-2C spacecraft, which is expected to be launched during the latter half of next year, will have additional telecommunications capacity as compared to its predecessors, and this would enable the services to be diversified further.

Significant progress has also been achieved in the use of satellite remote sensing data for management and monitoring of natural resources, thanks to the excellent performance of IRS-1A and IRS-1B, which are in orbit. Apart from established applications in several fields such as agriculture, fisheries, soil and water resources, forestry and environment, major emphasis is given to achieving sustainable development. The results obtained in six pilot projects in various districts in India have been very encouraging and have demonstrated the effectiveness of the integrated approaches adopted for solving resource development problems. The programmes for sustainable development have been launched in 157 districts of India, thus covering a very significant geographical area of the country. Such innovative approaches in remote sensing application services are to be continued and their quality will even be enhanced by the launch of the IRS-1C satellite next year. Moreover, significant progress has been achieved in making the IRS data available globally.

As in previous years, the Indian Space Programme has actively sought to promote international cooperation. Last year, agreements for renewing cooperation were signed with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the French National Space Agency (CNES). Under the programme for sharing experience, training in the field of remote sensing applications has been offered to several persons from other developing countries.

Let me now briefly turn to the work of the two Subcommittees this year. We are pleased to note the progress made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on a number of items. The discussion and presentations on the subject of space debris - a subject which has been included in this year's agenda - were encouraging, and we would like to see speedy progress on this important agenda item. We particularly welcome the common approach in the Subcommittee on various aspects related to future work on this agenda item, including the development of a multi-year plan as proposed by the Subcommittee in paragraph 71 of its report (A/AC.105/571).

In the context of the past decade's rapid developments in the exploration and uses of outer space, and taking into account the general political, economic and scientific developments across the globe, we have been discussing new opportunities and implications for strengthening international cooperation. One of the important steps taken in the Committee recently was a consideration of the idea of holding a third UNISPACE Conference. Following the discussion in our Committee last year, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee further considered this subject as per the General Assembly's request. The working papers which were submitted in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the analysis document (A/AC.105/575) prepared by the Secretariat in response to the request of the Subcommittee form a good basis for further discussion which may allow us to arrive at an early conclusion during the current session.

The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, envisions outer space as a province of all mankind. It further declares that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries. We consider that constant efforts to renew and enhance international cooperation in order to promote and implement the above principle of the Treaty are of fundamental importance. New measures to enhance such cooperation in the interests of all countries by developing international initiatives for preservation of the outer space environment, assistance in protecting the Earth's environment and achieving sustainable development, are the urgent goals we commonly seek. They can only be achieved through the widest possible participation and commitment.

Outer space applications have already demonstrated their immense value to all nations, particularly the developing nations, in seeking rapid solutions to their problems. Ensuring the growth of such beneficial applications in a cooperative spirit is in the interest of all nations and, indeed, is an imperative for manifesting the spirit of the outer space Treaty itself. Thus we consider that a conference with the widest possible participation will be the proper forum for considering future initiatives to diversify and strengthen international cooperation, taking recent developments into account. We hope that an early conclusion on this matter can be reached.

As regards the work of the Legal Subcommittee this year, we are pleased to note that further constructive and useful exchanges of views took place among the distinguished delegations with respect to all agenda items.

We believe that this will contribute to further progress on the complex agenda items addressed by the Legal Subcommittee. Our delegation will comment on specific matters relating to the other agenda items when they are taken up for debate.

Mr. Lessard (Canada) *(interpretation from French)*: It is a great pleasure for me to address this Committee. I would like to begin by expressing my delegation's satisfaction at seeing you, Sir, acting as the Chairman of the Committee once again this year. I would also like to congratulate the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and its Director on the efficiency with which it carried out the transition to its new seat here in Vienna.

I would like to describe various Canadian space activities that have taken place since our meeting last year, and, in particular, to present the broad outlines of the new space plan announced by the Canadian Government last week.

Since the launch of Alouette in 1962, which allowed Canada to become the third nation to break through the terrestrial horizon, our space activities have followed three broad lines: communications, with the development of the domestic communications satellite system Anik, which made Canada the first country to have such a system; Earth observation, with the development of technologies having to do with the acquisition, processing and distribution of radar data, in particular; and robotics.

These three priorities are evident in the annual summary of activities that I would like to share with you, and in the orientation of the Canadian Space Programme at the threshold of the third millennium and beyond.

Since 1993, we have pursued activities in the field of space scientific research, especially as concerns the relations between the Earth and the sun, astronomy from space, biological and chemical research in microgravity, and observations of the upper atmosphere. More specifically, the data from the Canadian and French instrument called Windy, launched in 1991 aboard an American satellite, revealed the distribution of atomic oxygen which is essential for the production of the protective ozone layer.

As regards Earth observation, we are looking forward to the launch of RADARSAT, which is scheduled for early 1995. This satellite, the first in commercial use which allows for the use of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology, will enable efficient management of Earth resources by providing very detailed imagery of dark or covered areas of the Earth and of glacial seas and the evolution of the environment in general. During 1994, RADARSAT will be studied in the David Florida Laboratory in Ottawa, where it will be subjected to various tests designed to ensure that it will work properly in space. This laboratory was designated by the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) as an authorized antenna testing centre in September 1993. It is the first testing centre in the world to be authorized for this purpose, and it will thus perform tests of antennas from manufacturers across the globe who seek to produce aeronautical antennas for the INMARSAT programme in the future.

Canada has also completed development and construction of EMSAT, a mobile telecommunications satellite that will provide users in remote regions with services comparable to those available in major urban centres. The satellite is scheduled to go on line later this year.

Use of the Canadian robotic arm on the United States Space Shuttle has continued. In December 1993, United States and European astronauts used the arm as a mobile platform to carry out necessary repairs on the Hubble Space Telescope. The arm's robotic jointing system was of critical importance throughout the telescope recovery, maintenance and release operation. We congratulate our United States and European colleagues on their great success, which will pave the way for spectacular discoveries.

We have also continued our cooperation in the context of the International Space Station (ISS) programme. The inclusion of a new partner, Russia, will strengthen this ambitious programme, to which Canada is proud to contribute.

Also in the international sphere, Canada has continued its exchange and cooperation programmes with its partners; as clear evidence of firm commitment to cooperation and to the complementarity of international space activities, in November 1993 the Canadian Space Agency was host, at its Saint-Hubert, Québec, site, to the second meeting of the forum of space agencies, a consultative body of heads of the space agencies of some 30 countries active in space.

That outlines the general thrust of our activities since last year. Let me now set out the Canadian Government's guidelines for space activities over the next 10 years, as set out in the new Canadian space plan announced by the

Federal Government last Friday. Our plan is the successor to the first Canadian space plan, which was announced in 1986, and covers the 10-year period 1994-2004. It includes major Canadian Government investment in space, especially in the areas of telecommunications and remote sensing, and confirms Canadian participation as a full partner in the International Space Station programme. These investments reaffirm the strategic role of space activities in a Canadian economy based on research.

The Governmental priorities behind the space plan are: to accent Canada's commercial and technological achievements in order to respond better to the needs of our citizens; to contribute to economic growth and employment; to contribute to industrial competitiveness and exports; and to maximize the effects of leverage through private-sector investment.

Among the new initiatives announced by the Government are the following: a programme to improve Canada's facilities for receiving and processing satellite data and providing for further work in the Radarsat programme to help protect the Earth environment and improve the monitoring and management of Canada's natural resources; a state-of-the-art telecommunications programme involving the development by Canadian industry of new technologies in the areas of multi-media, high-definition television and the implementation of a Canadian electronic highway and of mobile personal communication technologies; increased investment in the space-technology programme of the Canadian Space Agency with a view to developing new technologies of strategic importance, including increased Canadian participation in European Space Agency (ESA) programmes; increased financing for space science, including activities connected with scientific satellite missions, atmospheric research and research under conditions of micro-gravity; additional opportunities for missions by Canadian astronauts with respect to the development of the ISS and of projects for the scientific community and for Canadian industry; and the enhancement of awareness of space activities with a view to familiarizing the public with scientific issues and promoting careers in science and technology among students and educators.

The Canadian Government confirms also that it has successfully completed discussions with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on a new role for Canada in the ISS programme, given the present limited financial capacity of the Government. Canada will remain a full partner in the project and will thus play a fundamental role in the assembly and operation of the space station, enabling Canada to retain its leadership in the field of space robotics.

One guiding principle of the new Canadian space plan is to maximize private-sector participation in the planning, management and financing of major programmes, especially in the areas of satellite communications and remote sensing. The Canadian Space Agency will direct the implementation of these new initiatives, and will establish a consultative process for all participants.

In future meetings, we shall address specific subjects in greater detail. For the present, I shall just mention that the items on the spin-off benefits of space technology and on space debris are of particular interest to my delegation. In that connection, Canada is pleased that the question of space debris is now on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; we support the Subcommittee's recommendation with respect to developing a specific programme of work spanning several years for further studying the phenomenon and identifying remedies.

Never since human beings first timidly entered space has the political and economic climate been so conducive to pooling international resources for extra-planetary discovery and research. As factors conducive to international cooperation, I might mention the end of the cold war, the increasing globalization of the economy, the budgetary difficulties faced by many countries, and increasing public awareness of environmental issues and of the need for effective management of natural resources, and of the important role space technology can play in the process of economic and social development.

Canada fully subscribes to the concept of increased cooperation - which we consider to be the path to reaching the true goal of this Committee: the peaceful utilization of outer space.

I assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my delegation's full cooperation in all the work of the Committee.

The Chairman: We shall now have a presentation by Intersputnik.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.

The Chairman: The Committee has just witnessed a very interesting and informative presentation of Intersputnik, and I should like on behalf of the Committee

to express our appreciation for the presentation and the very useful information we have received.

Does any delegation wish to ask a question about the presentation?

Mr. Jajtner (Czech Republic): I should like to ask if there is any cooperation between Intersputnik and INTELSAT.

Mr. Veshchunov (Intersputnik): Yes. In 1991 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Intersputnik and INTELSAT and in our day-to-day operations we are trying to coordinate our activities.

Also, I believe there is still some potential for the increase and expansion of our cooperation with this leading international telecommunications entity.

Mr. Ortner (Austria): What is the relationship between Intersputnik and Eutelsat?

Mr. Veshchunov (Intersputnik): Four months ago, at an official meeting between the General Director of Eutelsat and the General Director of Intersputnik in Paris, it was decided to sign an agreement on cooperation. The text of that agreement, drafted at Intersputnik headquarters, was sent to Eutelsat headquarters about a month and a half ago and we are now waiting for the response. We hope the agreement will be signed very soon.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.